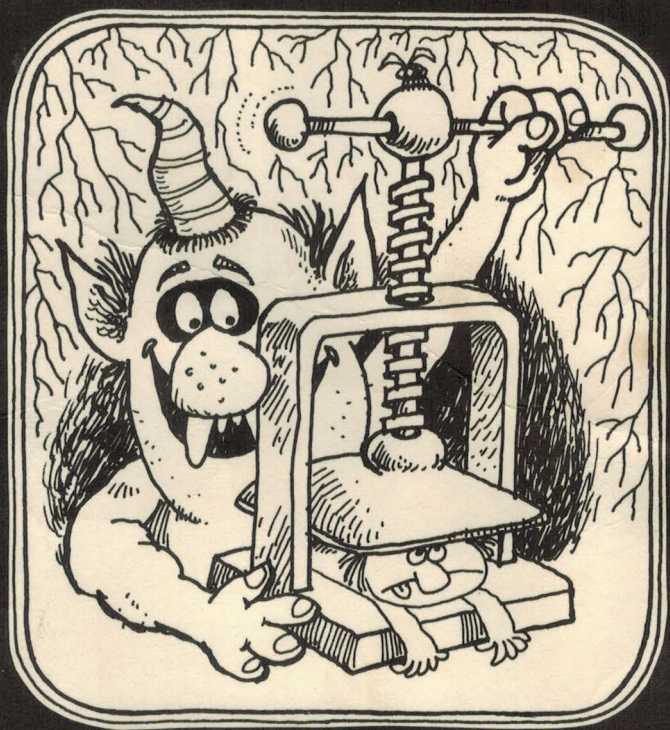


# The MEAN TREE

A  
HALLOWEEN  
FABLE









# The MEAN TREEN

A HALLOWEEN FABLE











**H**ALLOWEEN, now-a-days, means lots of fun  
With tricks and treats for everyone  
But it wasn't very long ago  
On Halloween night that wasn't so.

Then Halloween night meant other things  
Like screeching screams and whirring wings.

Things that crawled and jumped and flew  
With clutching claws and sharp teeth, too!

And nobody ever went out to play  
For fear that some goblin would take him away.

Take him away to the home of the Treen  
The most terrible tyrant of all Halloween!

The Treen was a monster of gigantic size  
With horns on his head and fire in his eyes.

He lived in Treen cave on top of Treen Hill  
Where he practised Treen magic with all his Treen skill.

And he sent out his monsters each Halloween night  
To catch every child who came into sight.

Catch them and bring them back to Treen cave  
And turn each one into another Treen slave.

And there they would follow all of Treen's wishes  
Like scrubbing Treen's floors and washing Treen's dishes.

Like making the food for the goblins who stayed there  
And helping the Treen make the magic He made there.





The Treen made them work from dawn until bed  
Till finally one day one of them said,

"We must get away from this terrible Treen  
He's so wicked and evil and monstrously mean."

But someone else said, "Old Treen's not so bad  
It's just that he seems to be terribly sad.

Our troubles, I bet would be cut in half  
If we could just manage to get Treen to laugh!



If he could just laugh then maybe he'd see  
How mean he has been and set us all free.

And I know of something to get rid of a frown  
It's a happy and smiling real circus clown."

So late every night when done with their tasks  
They made funny costumes and funnier masks.

The time passed quickly as they worked on  
And pretty soon the whole year had gone.

So when they appeared in front of the Treen  
It was already time for a new Halloween.







The Treen looked angry and sat and glared  
And all of the children were frightfully scared.

But just as they started to fear for the worst  
The Treen let out with a big laugh—his first.

He laughed and he shook and his face got red  
And the horns (just like that) disappeared from his head.

He laughed so hard that he started to cry  
And the tears washed the fire right out of each eye.

Then the Treen smiled a smile as big as can be  
And said "Thank you, children at last I am free.

I'm free from the curse that's kept me up here  
Away from all sunshine and laughter and cheer.





Your making me laugh has broken the spell  
And from this day on Halloween will be swell.

There will be no more evil starting today  
And all of my monsters I'll send far away.

And all year through I'll work making sweets  
Candy-apples and cider for Halloween treats.

And on each Halloween I hope that you will  
Come visit me here way up on Treen Hill.





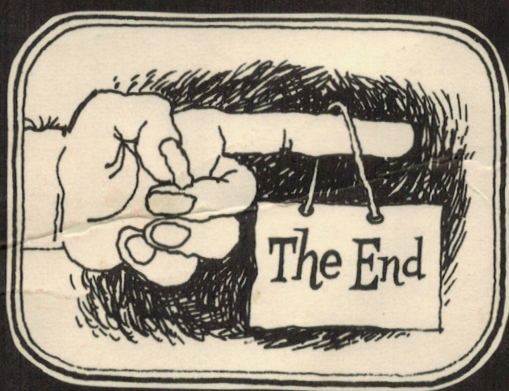


And because all your costumes gave me such fun  
I have Halloween presents for every last one."

And he gave each a bag filled with good things to eat  
And said, "It's all right to trick but much more fun to treat!"

To Tommy Trucks from  
Grammy









N  
WOCROSS

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